

REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 10th May 1902.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.		PAGE.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.		(h)—General—	
Russia's designs	193	The India Council in London	195
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.		Europeans <i>versus</i> Indians	<i>ib.</i>
(a)—Police—		The Hon'ble Mr. Cotton	<i>ib.</i>
A theft case in Calcutta	193	Ditto	<i>ib.</i>
The Police Commission	<i>ib.</i>	Ditto	<i>ib.</i>
(b)—Working of the Courts—		Ditto	<i>ib.</i>
The Farrakhabad murder case	193	Ditto	186
Mr. Vernède	<i>ib.</i>	Ditto	<i>ib.</i>
The Kharagpur assault case	<i>ib.</i>	Ditto	<i>ib.</i>
(c)—Jails—		Assaults by Europeans on natives	197
Nil.		"Official wrong doings"	<i>ib.</i>
(d)—Education—		Agricultural banks in Bihar	<i>ib.</i>
Changes in the University	193	The Parliamentary Blue-book on Mr. Pennell's case	<i>ib.</i>
Hindu female education	194	The Lat Bhairab temple case and the Kharagpur assault case	<i>ib.</i>
The Bengali translation of Shakespeare's plays	<i>ib.</i>	Panchayats	<i>ib.</i>
Dr. Kelly of the Calcutta Medical College	<i>ib.</i>	III.—LEGISLATION.	
(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—		Nil.	
The Municipal Magistrate of Calcutta	194	IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
Muhammadan representation on the Burdwan District Board	<i>ib.</i>	The Panna case	198
Rai Nalinakhya Bose Bahadur	195	Ditto	<i>ib.</i>
(f)—Questions affecting the Land—		Treatment of Native Princes	<i>ib.</i>
Nil.		The Dewanship of Mysore	<i>ib.</i>
(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation—		V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
Railway concession during Durga Pu'as	195	Nil.	
		VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.	
		The Indian National Congress	199
		The Kayastha Conference	<i>ib.</i>
		The Black Hole	<i>ib.</i>
		Ditto	<i>ib.</i>
		State, aided immigration of Indians to South Africa	200
		Ditto ditto	<i>ib.</i>

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

646. The *Indian Mirror*, quoting certain articles from *India* and the *Navasti*, impresses on the Government the necessity of watching the Russian advance towards India, which a Russian statesman described as her "destiny."
 Russia's designs. INDIAN MIRROR.
 27th April 1902.
- It says that Russian ambition has developed since the late Amir's death, and although Russia has enough troubles at home, it is paradoxical that it is just then that her foreign activity is greatest.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

647. The *Bengalee* complains in a long article of the enquiry made by the Calcutta Police into a case of theft from a house in 108, Baranasi Ghose's Street, when a cash-box containing Rs. 457 was stolen, and in referring to the stern orders of Sir Stuart Hogg and Sir John Lambert, appeals to Mr. Bignell and to Mr. Halliday to set the best detective on the enquiry.
 A theft case in Calcutta. BENGALIAN,
 4th May 1902.
648. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* recommends the appointment on the Police Commission of Mr. Justice Chandra Madhab Ghose, if an Indian official is to be appointed.
 The Police Commission. AMRITA BAZAR
 PATRIKA,
 4th May 1902.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

649. Referring to the sentence in this case, the *East* says:—
 "If we are allowed to speak out our minds freely, we cannot but say that such executions may harden our hearts, but do not enhance the respect for the law which metes out such punishment. We ardently hope that our sympathetic Viceroy will not permit this Jewish maxim of 'life for life' justice to merge into an unparalleled barbarity, if there is still time to save these unfortunate outcasts from the grip of law."
 The Farrakhabad murder case. EAST,
 26th April 1902.
650. *Power and Guardian* recommends the Government in all seriousness to relieve the judicial side of the public service of the presence of Mr. Vernède. Judging him from his past and present actions, the journal says he brings discredit on the administration and lowers the prestige of the English race in the eyes of the Indian people.
 Mr. Vernède. POWER AND GUARDIAN,
 27th April 1902.
651. In the course of an article on this subject, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes:—
 We would earnestly request Sir J. Woodburn to send for the papers in connection with the Kharagpore shoe laying case and write a Resolution upon it. For it is really difficult to ascertain where we are in regard to this case. Are we to take it that the view taken by Mr. Marr is the right one? If so, let His Honour say so. If not, His Honour is all the more bound to declare his opinion in the interests of justice.
 The Kharagpore assault case. AMRITA BAZAR
 PATRIKA,
 3rd May 1902.

(d)—Education.

652. The *Indian Nation* lays down a few general principles which appear to render a change in the constitution of the University necessary.
 Changes in the University. INDIAN NATION,
 28th April 1902.
- First, the range of the operations of the University should be determined, and what kinds and standards of education it should encourage. Must the University as a seat of liberal education be permitted to variegate its Arts course with technical subjects, demand athletics from its examinees, or to cripple literature to make room for lessons in morality and sanitation in the text-books to be prescribed?
- Next, the constitution of the Senate, consisting of amateurs and illiterate men, calls for remodelling and the abuses practised by the Syndicate, which for

all practical purposes is supreme, is in need of check. The selection of text-books, it is pointed out, is sometimes made to benefit not students, but their authors, and examiners are appointed who are unequal to their work.

The influence of experts is productive of doubtful benefit, each expert contriving to get in his own subject, with the result that there is a multiplicity of compulsory subjects, Physics, Chemistry, Hygiene, Sanitary Science, Psychology, Logic and Ethics.

The *Nation's* chief suggestion is: Get the right sort of men to constitute the University and its executive; to hold examinations; to frame courses of study, and to teach.

If it is difficult to persuade superior Englishmen to come out as teachers, encourage the best indigenous talents, but until men of the proper sort have been obtained, it is hopeless to expect any good to come of constitutional changes by themselves. It concludes as follows:—

"We may be permitted to advert to the habit of Government, by no means conducive to the interests of efficient teaching, of throwing upon Professors, on grounds of administrative convenience, the task of teaching subjects in which they are not well versed and which are uncongenial to them; and to the equally unwholesome habit of withdrawing efficient teachers from educational work and appointing them as Inspectors of Schools. Teachers ought to have some freedom of choice.

INDIAN MIRROR,
2nd May 1902.

653. The *Indian Mirror* notices with appreciation the efforts of Miss Saravala Ghosal to establish a College for Hindu girls, where their education will proceed on Aryan national lines. It recognises the difficulty of the task upon which the promoters of the institution are embarking, but hopes Heaven will guide them to the right issue.

INDIAN MIRROR,
2nd May 1902.

654. The *Indian Mirror* mentions that the Education Department has bought only 12 copies of Babu Haran Chunder Rakshit's translation of Shakespeare's plays, which is a sadly inadequate encouragement of his talents and enterprise as well as of eight years' labour. It invites the Lieutenant-Governor's attention to the fact in the hope that he will see his way to vindicating the credit of his Government in the matter of encouraging genuine literary worth.

BENGALIEE,
4th May 1902.

655. The *Bengalee* reports that Dr. Kelly of the Calcutta Medical College pulled a third-year student by the ear for what appeared to be a mistake of the student in attending to the case of a patient, and that the Principal of the College, who was approached on the subject, dismissed the boy summarily.

It expresses the opinion that the method employed by Dr. Kelly in setting the boy right was not at all proper—repugnant to the feelings of self respecting Indian youths—and quite opposed to the approved methods of teaching.

Dr. Kelly, it remarks, should not hold the position of a teacher and should be sent to the right-about, preferentially to a Jail Superintendentship.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
27th April 1902.

656. *Power and Guardian* publishes some cases tried by the Municipal Magistrate of Calcutta, who, it is alleged, does not require witnesses to corroborate the statements of Municipal Inspectors. It not only cannot congratulate the Magistrate on the character of the justice he is administering to the rate-payers, but urges the taking of steps to prevent the continuance of such a great scandal and legal farce, at least for the sake of decency. In this view, it recommends the publication in detail of a few such cases daily.

BENGALIEE,
1st May 1902.

657. Hitherto, says the *Bengalee*, two Muhammadan representatives have been nominated by the Government on the District Board. This time the Magistrate has nominated only one. This is, in the writer's opinion, grossly unfair to the Muhammadan community and should not be upheld by the Government. It is hoped justice will be done to the interests of the Muhammadan community in the Burdwan district. They may be in a minority, but

their wealth, intelligence and culture entitle them to a respectful consideration at the hands of the authorities.

658. The *Bengalee* learns that Rai Nalinakhya Bose Bahadur, who has been associated in different capacities with the District Board of Burdwan for years together, has, on account of his independence, not been nominated a member this year by the Magistrate. It desires to associate itself with the petition that has been addressed to Government to nominate him to the Board. His presence might not be pleasant to the Magistrate, but it is useful, says the *Patrika*, to the public.

BENGALÉE,
1st May 1902.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

659. At present, says the *Bengalee*, concession tickets on the Eastern Bengal Railway are available for 30 days, while Civil Courts, schools and colleges close for 33 or 34 days. As ill-paid ministerial officers of Civil Courts as also school-boys are obliged to go without this concession, the journal asks for an extension of the period to six weeks. If this be not practicable, the request is made that the monthly return tickets issued at this time might be made available for five weeks instead of 30 days.

BENGALÉE,
1st May 1902.

(h)—*General.*

660. Of the items which constitute the Home charges, there is one to which the *Behar Herald* objects, and in regard to which it asks for redress, viz., the constitution of the India Council in London, which is composed of a "body of useless and mischievous old gentlemen."

BEHAR HERALD,
23rd April 1902.

Such a constitution stereotypes past methods of Government even when these are discredited; it is behind the age and a drag on modern progress. It is an expensive body and prevents the Secretary of State knowing the true wishes of the people. The universal desire in India is to abolish it and have instead a Parliamentary Committee. If this is not feasible, the journal presses for the appointment of a native of India on the Council.

661. *Power and Guardian* says that it was perhaps not well, as the *Englishman* pointed out, for the *Bengalee* to suggest that Jaswant Gopal should have taught Mr. Bayley a lesson in politeness by a few kicks or cuffs, but it remarks that it should be remembered that a worm will turn when trod on. Such a recourse to natural means of defence is seen commonly of late in collisions between Englishmen and villagers, who knowing they have no remedy against European assailants in either law courts or at the hands of responsible rulers, seek to redress their wrongs themselves.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
27th April 1902.

662. In the course of a leader on the career of the Hon'ble Mr. Cotton, the *Bengalee* says:—

BENGALÉE,
28th April 1902.

"But whether Assistant Magistrate or the Chief Commissioner of a great Province, the same qualities of head and heart were always conspicuous. Insight, courage, enthusiasm, deep sympathy with the people, and a readiness to sacrifice the brightest official prospects for them and in their service—these are the qualities which have always distinguished Mr. Cotton, and now that he is about to retire, these are the qualities which, from one end of the country to the other, have roused the enthusiastic gratitude of our people. It is sad to reflect that the qualities of sympathy, earnestness, courage, self-sacrificing devotion, such as Mr. Cotton has shown throughout his official career, should not have been adequately recognized and honoured by the Government. If they are noble qualities in a man, they are sovereign virtues in a ruler of men. Their appreciation would encourage their cultivation; their practical condemnation would bring into prominence qualities which are undesirable in individuals and which are mischievous in the rulers of men."

663. The *Indian Mirror* says that the farewell demonstrations in Mr. Cotton's honour, in spite of the attempts on the part of the Government of India, the Assam planters and the Anglo-Indian press to discredit him in the public estimation, constitute Mr. Cotton's best vindication.

INDIAN MIRROR,
30th April 1902.

In this connection it thus refers to Lord Curzon. "And Lord Curzon, who must some day retire, will be fortunate, if the mere "native" of India remember his departure with a tithe of affectionate regret which follows Mr. Cotton. It is all very well for an autocratic Viceroy to break an official, who dares to think and act for himself, on the bureaucratic wheel. In course of time, the autocrat gets himself broken on the wheel of public opinion. When that day comes, neither greedy planters nor obsequious Chambers of Commerce with their subscriptions for statues in marble and bronze for the victim can help the unhappy man. Lord Ripon has no statue in India. Mr. Cotton will have none. What then? Those with statues are forgotten or remembered only for the evils they helped to perpetuate. But these nobler ones without statues are enshrined in the hearts of the people as the very gods of the land."

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
30th April 1902.

664. In the course of an article on Mr. Cotton's retirement, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, while circulating the report that Mr. Cotton lost his chances of promotion because he failed to please Lord Curzon, confidently contradicts the rumour and characterizes it as malicious. Yet it says Lord Curzon is not an angel, and it is quite possible for His Excellency to be offended when he has to fight a foe worthy of his steel, and that in the controversy between the Government of India and Mr. Cotton the mistake lay with Lord Curzon.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
1st May 1902.

665. Continuing its appreciative remarks of Mr. Cotton, the same paper says that Mr. Cotton's ambition was to convert Assam into another Bengal. This he might have done if he had been left unfettered. Unfortunately, all the reforms he proposed were opposed by the Government of India and thus he could achieve very little.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
3rd May 1902.

666. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* recapitulates the views of Mr. Cotton, and of the Government of India on the scheme of the former to introduce the permanent settlement into Assam, which it regards as one of the noblest ambitions of Mr. Cotton's life, but which the Government of India, an ardent advocate of the raiyatwari system, dashed to the ground.

BENGALIEE,
3rd May 1902.

667. In view of what Mr. Cotton has said that the abuses in tea-gardens will never be altogether removed, the *Bengalee* says that the only reasonable conclusion it can arrive at is that the system which necessarily perpetuates these abuses, which is calculated to stereotype a system of slavery as a permanent feature of British administration must be knocked on the head. It is a disgrace to civilised administration and the British Government, whose mission it is to emancipate slavery, sanctions with its authority and protects by its power and prestige a system of slavery in India, in the interests mainly of European capitalists.

As to the vindication of Mr. Cotton's policy, the *Bengalee* writes as follows:—Time will vindicate the policy for which Mr. Cotton has fought and for which he has suffered. Time will justify him. Time will exalt him above all his compeers. When time has torn away the emblems of office and has encrusted with its rust the glitter of official position, Truth, the offspring of Time, will declare that Henry John Stedman Cotton was the greatest Anglo-Indian administrator of his day; that he was truer to his country and its great traditions than those entrusted with more responsible offices; that he more than any other official of his generation had glorified the English name; that he was a truer Empire-builder than the professed adherents of Imperialism, and that by his beneficence, wisdom, and justice he rendered an inestimable service to India and England alike. That will be the verdict—the impartial judgment of history. That is the united verdict of educated India, and the demonstrations which will soon be held will proclaim that verdict from one end of the country to the other.

BENGALIEE,
4th May 1902.

668. The *Bengalee* regards as fearless the speech of the Hon'ble the Maharaja of Darbhanga at the Cotton demonstration at Gauhati, recommending that Mr. Cotton be retained for another six months and his nomination thereafter as the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in the opening months

of 1903, when Sir John Woodburn's term will have expired. As Mr. Cotton is supposed (let us hope erroneously, adds the *Bengalee*) not to be a *persona grata* with the Viceroy, it required courage to proclaim the blunt truth that his services are better appreciated by the people than the powers that be. It then alludes to the probability of Mr. Ibbetson succeeding to the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal, in which case the people of this Province would have a legitimate grievance.

669. The *Bengalee* cites three recent cases in which Europeans were charged with assaulting Indians, but the cases against whom were withdrawn after apologies had been tendered, and appeals to His Excellency the

Assaults by Europeans on natives.

Viceroy to make it clear, that it will be considered a social disgrace to strike a "native," and that such culprits will be forbidden the entrance to Government House.

670. Under this heading, the *Indian Empire* cites three cases to show that the system under which the administration is carried on in this country, is responsible for

"Official wrong doings."

inexperienced young officers who are vested with large powers, losing their heads and playing ducks and drakes with the liberty of the people. In the first case which is alleged to have occurred in the Lushai Hills, a bullock-driver of Sairang was under the orders of Mr. G. Whalley, Assistant to the Superintendent, Lushai Hills, taken to the jail and given a flogging of 15 stripes by a head-constable for driving a bullock with a sore neck. There was no arrest, no trial and no medical examination, and as a Magistrate with only second class powers, Mr. Whalley had no power to order whipping.

The second case refers to the order of the Magistrate of Muzaffarpur refusing to issue processes against Mr. Faulkner and others charged under the Penal Code, when that gentleman after a thorough investigation, was ordered to be prosecuted by the Munsif.

The third case is the one in which Mr. Vernède of Jalpaiguri has lately come before the public.

671. Commenting on the scheme for starting agricultural banks in Bihar, the *Behar Herald* is not only doubtful of the result, but advocates instead the introduction

Agricultural banks in Bihar.

of the monetary scheme, which it describes, in vogue in Egypt for the benefit of the rural population there and which has been attended with such success.

It recommends instituting one such National Bank of the Egyptian character in Patna, with its branches in all the twelve districts of Bihar.

672. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* cites the opinions of the *Liverpool Post* and *Manchester Guardian* on the Parliamentary Blue-book giving the details of Mr. Pennell's case, and comments on the absence from the Blue-book of

The Parliamentary Blue-book on Mr. Pennell's case.

the judgment in the Chapra case. It has no doubt that this document was omitted deliberately, for the Government "did not venture to make the facts of that case public in England." In its opinion, "the service that Mr. Pennell did to the Government by exposing the Chapra conspiracy is simply incalculable, though it will be extremely difficult for the authorities to admit, or even realise it. Under the notion that the officials were incapable of doing wrong, the authorities were supporting them even when they did not deserve it. The Chapra case made the Government wary and suspicious."

673. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* refers to the outrage perpetrated in the Lat Bhairab temple at Benares which has gone

The Lat Bhairab temple case and the Kharagpur assault case.

undetected and unpunished, and the Kharagpur case in which a Brahmin was grossly insulted and which remains unredressed, and states that they are the subject just now of severe comments and are exercising the minds of the Hindus all over the country.

674. In a review of Mr. C. W. Whish's paper in *East and West* on the benefits to be derived by utilizing village

Panchayats.

panchayats in working village or agricultural banks, the *Hindoo Patriot* dilates on their excellence as Courts for the settlement of caste disputes, in which capacity they are still employed,

BENGALIEE,
28th April 1902.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
29th April 1902.

BEHAR HERALD,
30th April 1902.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
1st May 1902.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
2nd May 1902.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
2nd May 1902.

but it laments the fact that since the institution of British Courts of law, these organizations are not so largely requisitioned as Courts of arbitration. Knowledge of the habits, feelings and wants of the village men enabled these panchayats to dispense justice with much success and very little cost.

If properly organised they could be utilised as Village Bank Committees and afford the greatest service, and if given discretion as to whom to make advances, they would be able to make the proposed banks really popular.

In this connection, the journal advocates the grant of advances by the proposed banks of grain and seed as well as cash, and the inclusion of weavers and the like among the persons to be benefited by their operations. Also that the banks should be authorized to advance money on account of marriage and other domestic occurrences, and for this purpose, village panchayats would be eminently useful.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

POWER AND GUARDIAN,
27th April 1902.

675. *Power and Guardian*, in the course of an article on the finding of the Government in this case, says:—

The Panna case.

"We must confess it has not been possible for us to go through the whole evidence forthcoming in the case. But so far as the report of the Commission is concerned, and the Resolution of the Government on it, we are disposed to think that the Maharaja of Panna has been condemned on very meagre and unsatisfactory evidence. No Court would ever venture to punish an accused in view of such meagre evidence. We are prepared to admit that Lord Curzon must have satisfied himself before taking upon himself the whole responsibility of deposing a ruling Chief and thereby sending an electrical shock through the whole Empire."

BENGALIEE,
28th April 1902.

676. Adverting to this case, the *Bengalee* is of opinion that the Commission dismissed somewhat summarily the view held by itself and Mr. Colvin, that the Maharaja being

Ibid.

innocent suspected Kumal Kuar of complicity in the murder and tried to save her. This important point has not apparently been as carefully considered as it should have been.

BENGALIEE,
30th April 1902.

677. The *Bengalee* is of opinion that the principal grievance of the Native Chief is the vexatious interference of the "purple Political" even in the pettiest of matters,

Treatment of Native Princes.

which deprives him of the substance and leaves him only the shadow of power. It is a notorious fact that no Native Prince can dismiss an official or appoint one without the approval of the Political Officer. It is this crushing control of the latter which, more than anything else, makes the Chief discontented with his lot and disgusted with his gilded bondage. He is constantly made to feel that though he is nominally the ruler of his principality, he is in certain matters less independent than even the meanest of his subjects. As long as this state of things continues to exist, the Native Chief can never be contented in the true sense of the term and a burning sense of humiliation can never cease to rankle in his breast. Emancipate him from the thralldom of the Resident or the Political Agent and you at once remove his principal grievance,—a grievance to the existence of which our Government must have by this time become perfectly alive.

BENGALIEE,
1st May 1902.

678. What the *Bengalee* objects to in the appointment of Mr. P. N.

The Dewanship of Mysore.

Krishna Murti, C.I.E., to the Dewanship of Mysore, is his confirmation by the Resident. As in the case of the Minister at Indore, and in other cases, where the Minister is a British protégé, he becomes the real ruler, and the State becomes in reality a British Province with the Maharaja as a magnificent non-entity. This is described by the journal as an improved form of annexation, dangerous, because it attracts little attention.

The appointment of a Minister to a Native State is the business of the Chief, and the intervention of the British authorities in a matter like this must be construed as amounting to serious interference in the internal administration of the State. What has been done in Mysore, may be done in other States, and the Native Chiefs as a class may view the policy adopted in Mysore in the light of an encroachment upon their political rights and a violation of

treaty-obligations. To say the least, this affair was ill-advised, and the *Bengalee* trusts that, when the Maharaja is invested with full powers, full discretion as to the appointment and continuance in service of the Minister will be given to him.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

679. Reviewing the work of the Congress, the *Hindoo Patriot* quotes the opinion of Sir William Wedderburn on the subject—"Unmitigated good in its origin, objects and methods," and adds to it its meed of praise, that the Congress movement has served to combine wealth, influence and position with intellect and culture, and that it is easy to foresee that its triumph will be complete.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
30th April 1902.

It adds: "Those who say that the attitude of Government towards the Congress is hostile, defame our Government, and their assertions are unworthy of credit."

680. The *Bengalee* is very thankful to Sir John Woodburn for indulging in plain-speaking in his reply to Babu Rassik Lal Roy on the subject of the holding of the late Kayastha Conference which was organised to solve the single problem of reduction of marriage expenses. His Honour's remark that the only genuine progress is when the people take it up themselves, and that the holding of meetings to please the authorities does not carry the matter further, has not been uttered a moment too soon.

BENGALÉE,
1st May 1902.

681. Continuing its discussion of this subject, the *Bengalee* says:—

The Black Hole. Assuming the truth of the story of the Black Hole, it is clear that the English, after the capitulation of Calcutta, had not been treated by the Nawab's people with any degree of harshness. In fact, excepting detaining them as prisoners within the fort, the Nawab had placed little or no restraint upon them. It was only when the English prisoners tried to break out of the fort that the Nawab's officers thought it necessary to put some restraint upon them. This is a fact, which we do not think even the most zealous partizan would have the hardihood to construe against the Nawab or his officers. And nobody can blame him for trying to prevent their escape. So far, therefore, the Nawab's action was not contrary to the rules of civilized warfare. And least of all can we blame the Nawab for inhumanity, for speaking harshly or in threatening language to Holwell. So far, therefore, the Nawab's conduct towards his prisoners cannot be pronounced by even the most zealous partizan to have been worthy of blame.

BENGALÉE,
1st May 1902.

The writer then asserts that the character of Seerajadowla has been blackened by English, Hindu and Muhammadan historians alike from interested motives. But the facts, given even by these historians, if weighed with an unprejudiced mind, can, proceeds the writer, hardly be said to bring home the charge of inhumanity, or treachery to Seerajadowla. When the English prisoners had to be put under restraint, a suitable place was sought by the Nawab's officers in the fort for their safe detention, and it was the English prisoners themselves who pointed out the Black Hole as the prison of the fort. The awful events which followed were only the results of accident; they certainly could not be attributed to a deliberate premeditation. The Nawab or his officers had no motive to serve in putting their prisoners to death. At most, it was carelessness on the part of the Nawab's officers. The Nawab himself had no hand in it. Under the circumstances, therefore, the writer maintains, the English had no just cause of revenge against the Nawab. The incident of the Black Hole is not worthy of commemoration, even on the ground that such a commemoration would serve the purpose of keeping alive a feeling of revenge in Englishmen, even if it were admitted that keeping alive such a feeling is justified by the moral law.

682. The *Bengalee* in its third article on this subject, examining the facts and circumstances of the case with a view to ascertaining the authenticity of the Black Hole incident, finds that it was a physical impossibility.

BENGALÉE,
2nd May 1902.

Contemporary writings make no mention of it; there is not a word of it to be found in Clive's letters before the Battle of Plassey. The first

allusion to it was in February 1857, when Holwell referred to it in a private letter to a friend. It was also Holwell's only reference to it. There is absolutely no evidence to corroborate the tardy testimony of Holwell. And Holwell was convicted of falsehood when he stated that the Nawab Mir Jaffar had murdered a number of highly respectable ladies belonging to the family of Aliverdy Khan in the prison at Dacca. It seems that Holwell, the sole witness who speaks to the truth of the Black Hole incident, was one of those men who see murder in everything. He was clearly a man uninfluenced by any scruples of conscience--untrammelled by any regard for veracity. And yet it is upon the testimony of such a man that the story of the Black Hole stands, and History can hardly be blamed if she refuses to credit such tainted testimony.

INDIAN MIRROR,
2nd May 1902.

683. The *Indian Mirror* commenting on Sir Lepel Griffin's proposal for State-aided immigration of Indians to South Africa, says that there is something in the idea and, if it catches on, the Boer losses may possibly turn out to be India's partial gain.

BENGALIAN,
2nd May 1902.

684. The following appears in the *Bengalee* :—

Ibid.

Sir Lepel Griffin recommends the encouragement of Indian immigration as affording the most satisfactory solution of the problem of the colonization of South Africa. We presume Sir Lepel is as well aware as anyone else of the sort of persecution to which the better class of Indian settlers have been and still are subjected by the authorities of the South Africa Colonies. Indian immigration on a large scale is possible only when the grievances of the Indian settlers are removed, and it would be interesting to learn how Sir Lepel proposes to secure an amelioration of their condition.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 10th May 1902.

H. B. ST. LEGER,
Asst. to the Insp.-General of Police, L. P.